

Amendment 0003 to BAA 99-1 effective 31 July, 2000
(This Amendment supercedes Amendments 0001 and 0002 in their entirety)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The USAMRMC is frequently directed by Congress to manage funding of research programs with specific goals and end-points for health related issues relevant to military personnel, military dependents, veterans, and/or the health of the American public. These research programs are generally concerned with topics relating to health-care delivery; to detection, diagnosis, control or eradication of specified diseases, conditions, or syndromes; or to other initiatives relevant to health needs. Funding of these areas is dependent upon Congressional direction and availability of funds.

Evaluation and selection of proposals is based upon scientific merit, programmatic relevance, and Congressional direction of awarded funds. Military relevance, collaborative efforts with DOD and/or VA scientists and clinicians, or other priorities may be evaluation criteria or requirements. Criteria and requirements for submission and evaluation of proposals may differ from those of other USAMRMC solicitation instruments, as well as other requirements stated in this BAA. For example, these special programs usually specify a submission closing date, required number of proposal copies to be submitted, and a specific mailing address.

Other examples of differences that may apply are:

- Submission of Pre-Proposals of one page or longer may be required,
- Submission of Letters of Intent may be required,
- Full Proposal submission requirements may be mailed to applicant with invitation to submit full proposal,
- Progress reporting requirements may differ and will be detailed in award document
- Points of contact for PI inquiries may be identified,
- Travel Cost guidelines may differ and
- PI notification of proposal receipt may differ.

Detailed information on proposal evaluation and selection can be found in the following section titled Evaluation and Selection.

Evaluation and Selection

Pre-proposals, when required, will be evaluated by USAMRMC scientists or outside experts for scientific merit and programmatic relevance. Principal Investigators whose Pre-proposals meet preliminary qualifications will be invited to submit full proposals. Full proposals will be evaluated using a two-tier review process. USAMRMC scientists and/or outside experts conduct the first tier, peer review. Peer reviewers evaluate proposals and assign scores based on the following factors (in descending order of importance):

- Research Strategy and Objectives
- Impact
- PI and Key Personnel Qualifications
- Facilities
- Budget

The second tier of review, programmatic review, will be conducted by a team which may consist of expert USAMRMC scientists, other Federal Agency Representatives, outside scientists with diverse expertise, clinicians, consumers, or combinations thereof. Programmatic review is primarily concerned with three criteria: peer review recommendations, programmatic priorities, and portfolio balance. Other programmatic priorities that may be considered include:

- Congressional guidance,
- Military mission, relevance, health, medicine, beneficiaries,
- DOD Priorities,
- VA Priorities, and
- Collaborations with federal researchers

After this two tiered evaluation, proposals recommended for funding are prioritized. A prioritized listing of alternates will also be prepared when warranted. Subsequent awards depend upon the availability of funds, and fulfillment of requirements and priorities determined to exist at the time of award. In some cases, funding priorities may change as certain scientific tasks are addressed and new mission assignments arise. Award is also dependent upon adequate demonstration by the applicant that they have addressed the USAMRMC Regulatory Compliance requirements for Research Involving Human subjects, Research Involving Animals, Facility Safety Plan, and Certificate of Environmental Compliance.

